

NOTE ON THE GENUS GYMNOPS, W. BLANF., (LACERTIDÆ),—
by W. T. BLANFORD, F. G. S., C. M. Z. S.

[Received 12th April, 1873.]

In the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal for 1870, Vol. xxxix, Pt. II, p. 357, I proposed to distinguish a new and peculiar form of *Ophiops* from Chhatisgarh by the subgeneric title of *Gymnops*. The species, to which I applied the name of *Ophiops (Gymnops) microlepis*, differs from the typical forms of *Ophiops* found in India and Western Asia in its more elongate proportions, longer tail, single postnasal and minute dorsal scales.

Dr. Stoliczka has since obtained the same species in other parts of India and especially in Kachh (J. A. S. B. 1872, Vol. xli, Pt. II, p. 90 and Proc. A. S. B. 1872, p. 74), and he has adopted the name *Gymnops* as a generic term, founding the distinction from *Ophiops* mainly on the difference in the character of the dorsal scales, which are much smaller and more granular than in true *Ophiops*, although they are distinctly keeled and imbricate. Quite recently Proc. A. S. B., July 1872, p. 126, Dr. Stoliczka has described a second species *Gymnops meizolepis* from Kalabagh on the Indus. This has somewhat larger scales than *G. microlepis*, but it possesses the same elongate form, the tail from the anus being more than twice the length of the body, and it again presents the peculiarity of a single postnasal instead of two or three as in *Ophiops*.

But the name *Gymnops*, whether considered as generic or subgeneric, cannot be retained for this type of naked-eyed lizards, as it has been twice employed in ornithology, having first been applied by Spix to a South American genus of Raptores, for which, however, an earlier generic title viz., *Daptrius* existed, secondly by Cuvier to a Malayan genus of *Sturnidæ*, allied to *Eulabes*.

Under these circumstances I propose to change the name of the Indian lacertian genus, above specified, to *Chondrophops* in reference to its somewhat granular scales.

